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W. R. HEARST.

AN AMERICAN PAPER FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

The President and Congress.

The President's critics who complain that he is leaving too much to Congress might fairly give him the benefit of the principle of averages, since they are the same ones who have been denouncing him for taking too much power into his own hands and acting as if Congress did not exist. If he was too much of a dictator up to last week, and is too little of one now, perhaps in time he may average up about right.

We are glad Mr. McKinley has finally decided to give the representatives of the people a chance to see what they can do. He is likely to get along a good deal better on that plan than if he adopted the Cleveland idea of ramming his policy down their throats. Congress, it may be remembered, did not do very many things that Mr. Cleveland wanted it to do.

In the matter of our new possessions the President, of course, has the advantage of thorough familiarity with the reports of the officers on the ground. But, on the other hand, the members of Congress have the advantage of coming directly from the people, and of knowing what the people want. It may be questioned, too, whether the constant pressure of official views upon the President is altogether a benefit. Some appalling blunders have been committed by officers with every facility for knowing better—blunders that could not have been perpetrated by men in touch with public opinion. Lincoln availed himself of the knowledge of the experts, but he kept near the people, too. That is why he was so successful.

The House has begun well by creating a special Committee on Insular Affairs. For this session that committee ought to take precedence of the Committee on Ways and Means. Its chairman has an opportunity to make a greater reputation than that of any other man in Congress. Let it frame a system of government for each of our island possessions under which their people will become prosperous, happy and loyal, and its members will find themselves famous.

Some Timely Ramapo Suggestions.

Corporation Counsel Whalen is showing praiseworthy solicitude for the much abused taxpayers of this city in the matter of the Astoria Gas grab.

But while Corporation Counsel Whalen is shaking his right fist in the direction of Berrian's Island, we trust that he is keeping his left fist ready to smash the Ramapo steal. If we want an increased water supply let us go about it in a practical way. Let us adopt the Belgrand system of Paris, and have two separate water supplies. For a fraction of \$200,000,000 we could lay a separate system of pipes from Harlem to the Battery and throughout the city. These could be connected with the North River, and a limitless supply could be had for street cleaning, sewer flushing, public parks, fountains and similar objects.

The potable supply from the Croton shed would then be easily sufficient for this city's house-to-house use for half a century to come.

If anybody still insists that we shall give a nebulous and thieving corporation \$200,000,000 for rain that has not yet fallen upon property which it does not own, let us suggest another scheme.

For \$200,000,000 a pipe line could be constructed from Lake George and a connection established with the Croton Aqueduct.

If in spite of all warnings the Ramapo steal is carried through, it is probable that some bullheaded functionaries may yet see how the world looks through prison bars.

Our Grain Trade Rapidly Vanishing.

The heavy grain shippers of Chicago are formulating plans for an all water route for grain to the seaboard. Grain elevators are to be erected in Montreal, and a fleet of ocean steamers has been planned. It is calculated that the scheme will be in operation within eight months. By these means the hoggish policy of those in control of the terminal facilities of this city will have had its natural result. We will lose the remnant of our Western trade, which will be deflected to Buffalo and Montreal.

To what end has the State Commerce Commission pursued its inquiries? It has summoned railroad presidents and elevator kings and has toured the State canals.

It has found out at great expense just what everybody else knew at first. It has discovered that the grain trade is a question of each port getting as much as it can. Other ports have as much right to exist as the port of New York.

This port has not only refused to spend money, but its port facilities are such that an enormous volume of trade has been driven away.

But whenever this port has made a slight reduction of port charges this reduction has been met immediately by railroad differentials to other ports.

Why should this city not impose a few differentials to offset this inevitable action of the railroads? The same weapon with which they knife us is at our command. There are two sides to every business transaction, and if we cannot hold the trade, we can at least deflect some of the differential money from the coffers of the railroads.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS ON THE DAY'S NEWS.

THE TIME IS RIPE for a national convention of fools. The crop this year has been surprisingly large and of good variety. The 520 per cent syndicate fools are numerous enough to fill Madison Square Garden of themselves.

Twenty-three fools in the Adirondacks took their fellow men for wild animals and perforated them with shot. Four fools shot their faithful dogs, taking them for deer.

In Chicago eighty-six female fools dabbled in a bucket shop with a "direct wire connection with the New York Stock Exchange" down in the cellar. They will not wear sealskins this yuletide.

Individual fools have been numberless and of fine quality. A New Jersey fool rested his arm on the muzzle of his gun and his foot on the hammer. He is now a one-armed fool.

A Chicago fool, in jail for robbery, knocked his cell mate down and despoiled him of \$1.33, thereby materially adding to his term.

A Florida fool, William Cleggett, thought it would be funny to give an elephant a chew of tobacco. When the fool came down the corner could not have located his sense of humor with a microscope.

By all means let us have a convention of fools and a home for indigent old fools.

TWENTY-ONE YEARS ago William Reno acquired the habit of breaking into jail. He is now forty-one years old. He has passed only three weeks of the past twenty-one years outside of prison walls. He has spent five terms in jail for thefts aggregating \$2,000.

About twenty-one years ago Mr. Thomas C. Platt began to have aspirations toward political leadership and great wealth. These points,

he has acquired. While blundering Mr. Reno was acquiring money and travelling fairward as often as possible, Mr. Platt was acquiring money and a reputation as a great and good man.

All this goes to show the various things that may be accomplished within twenty-one years, by different methods.

Mr. Reno was a blundering thief and deserved his long jail experience. A smart man will always come to the front with a reputation for virtue and goodness, provided he has half an opportunity.

The comparison of a great and good man with Mr. Reno teaches us the difference between education and ignorance in the matter of acquiring wealth.

EDWARD LENOX had a wife and three children, no money and no work. He killed himself. Edward Lenox sleeps. His wife and children sleep not. All earthly abandonments wrangled over in courts of law are as nothing to this.

Perhaps some time through the grass roots over his head he may hear the voices of his wife and children wailing hungrily.

Yet this may not be, because Edward Lenox has cast away his soul as a forfeit to cowardice.

Therefore, when the great day of judgment shall come for all men, it shall be said of Edward Lenox: What hath he done with his soul? There hath been seen neither sign nor trace of it.

RECORDER GOFF yesterday continued the admirable activity that is doing so much to bring out the truth in the Molnau case. His examination of the witness Mamie Melando was a perfect example of the work a judge with a genuine desire to dispel the fog of darkness can do toward clearing up doubtful political leadership and great wealth. These points,

PLAIN TALK WITH THE PEOPLE.

The Sunday Paper.

Editor of the New York Journal.

Your supplement is a marvel of the skill of art. Mechanically it surpasses all I expected, for I looked forward to this issue. I want it plainly understood that it will neither be purchased nor read on Sunday, and that I regret it comes out on Sunday, because I am sorry the Sunday paper stays with us. You advocate many noble things and succeed. Make a crusade against the Sunday paper and get a victor's crown. Such a work as that is worth living many lives for and sacrificing just as many.

I interpolate the above because this supplement is so charming and so helpful and so good. The pictures are wisely selected and tastefully and artistically set. But I cannot say anything about them. I never dare think of describing a rainbow or the sun or the ocean. It is sacrilegious. All that is needed is a soul to see. They do the rest; they reveal themselves. I thank you for the copy sent me.

JNO. T. WILDS.

New York, Dec. 8, 1890.

We thank the Rev. Mr. Wilds for his appreciation of the Christmas Journal. We cannot agree with him, however, in the opinion that people ought to have refrained from looking at the paper on Sunday. Where could anybody find a more elevating Sunday occupation?

Suppose Mr. Wilds had a great folio book, sumptuously printed by a religious publishing house. Suppose this book contained beautiful reproductions of Plolheim's "Star of Bethlehem," of Le Rolle's "Nativity," of Feurstein's "Holy Night," of Dagnan-Bouveret's "Madonna and Child," of Merson's "Arrival at Bethlehem" and "Repose in Egypt," and of Hofmann's "Worship of the Magi." Would not our friend consider such a work a very suitable thing for Sunday contemplation? We are inclined to think that Cotton Mather himself would have believed it no sin to gather high thoughts from such a source on the Lord's Day.

Mr. Wilds is good enough to tell us that the pictures in the Sunday Journal were beyond description, like a rainbow, or the sun, or the ocean. But if our recollection serves us correctly, the rainbow and the sun and the ocean are often on view on Sundays, and are admired on that day by the most punctilious.

The Journal is in full sympathy with Mr. Wilds regarding the desirability of having only elevating influences on Sunday. It believes that it furnishes such an influence. Of course there are differences of opinion regarding the proper manner of observing that day. Some would tolerate nothing in the nature of recreation. But we believe that recreation is not only permissible but part of the actual purpose of the day. The object of the weekly rest is to keep mind and body in good condition. "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath." The institution was established for man's good, not for his punishment.

After the congregation has been stimulated by a thoughtful, inspiring sermon, its members need not go home and sink into torpidity with the idea that sluggishness is Scriptural rest. They may open their Journals with clear consciences and continue the mental stimulation the minister began.

The Business of "Journalism."

Editor of the New York Journal.

Through the editorial column you kindly map out a course of study which would be of value to a young man intending to adopt journalism as a profession? MARTIN, Dec. 11.

If you cannot get a position on a newspaper (which is not likely at first if you are a novice), you may learn a few surprising things by making a home reporter of yourself.

Go to political meetings, to public events whenever possible. Learn to estimate the amount of space they are worth to a newspaper, and write them up.

Compare your story with those in the morning papers, and do not be disappointed if you find that you have overestimated, underestimated or missed the point of the thing entirely. Let the morning paper be your judge and jury.

You will find it very uphill work to acquire a "nose for news." It is much like a toper's nose—purchased with much industry and heartburning.

You must find that every story, viewed from a newspaper standpoint, has a main and vital fact, around which must be correlated all other facts, and which must be featured prominently both in narrative and headline.

This is merely rudimentary. When you have learned this, you may practise facility. Learn to write a column in an hour without deterioration in style. Otherwise on a "rush story" you will be lost.

When at last you get a position on a newspaper and the novelty has worn off, you may begin to read works by standard authors at your leisure. You will find this leisure to be approximately from 2 to 3 o'clock a. m., and perhaps half an hour after breakfast. We wish you well.

The Momentous Question of Youth.

Editor of the New York Journal.

Please tell me at what age do boys shave.

Dec. 9, 1890.

A READER.

Just as soon as they can detect the first downy premonitions of approaching manhood on their cheeks.

Help for the Poor.

Editor of the New York Journal.

Subscribing toward the great Deway Fund has at length come to an end. Permit me to call your attention to more heroes of New York City who are daily fighting the pangs of hunger. Let me suggest that we get up a second fund and name it the "Poverty Dime Fund." The suffering it would diminish cannot be described. With the money raised establish soup and bread kitchens in different parts of the city, and employ men or women to help in the distribution.

The poor of our land let us take by the hand, and do for them all that we can. And the great God above will give us his love for helping the "can't-get-work man."

LLEWYN HUESTON.

No. 232 King street, London, Canada.

GOMPERS ATTACKS M'KINLEY FOR EVILS IN OUR COLONIES.

President of the American Federation of Labor Declares Against the Military Rule as It Exists at Present—He Urges Self-Government for the Filipinos—Unionism, He Reports, Is Growing.

FACTS ABOUT THE FEDERATION OF LABOR.

Organized	1893
Total membership	750,000
Increase during year	144,282
Federation comprehends	
National and international unions	73
State federations	11
City central labor unions	118
Local trade unions	505
Federal labor unions	202

*This does not include local unions holding charters issued by national or international unions.

DETROIT, Dec. 11.—A strong attack upon President McKinley's method of governing Cuba, Hawaii and the Philippines is made in President Samuel Gompers's annual report to the convention of the American Federation of Labor now in session here. The meeting is attended by 200 delegates representing nearly 800,000 workmen. Mr. Gompers is absent, owing to illness.

He charges that in the newly annexed territory the Republican Government oppresses labor and tries to keep it on a slavery level. Slave-like conditions, he asserts, prevail in Hawaii.

"The agents of the slave masters are luring workers to Hawaii," he says, "to continue indefinitely the slave-like contract conditions of labor there, where the specific conditions of the contract to labor are enforceable with the whip and the dungeon."

"In Cuba the workers sought by united effort to secure some of the advantages resultant from

modern civilization that is, a reduction in the hours of their daily toil, and upon their request being denied them by their employers they exercised their natural and legal right to cease work."

"The general in command issued an order heaping the most offensive and unjustifiable attacks and abuse upon the workers, who sought an amelioration in their condition and relief from burdensome toll. The arrest of every man engaged in the strike was threatened and an ultimatum given that unless the men returned to work within forty-eight hours after the issuance of the military order the leaders would be arrested, charged with conspiracy or treason, and punished in accordance with the military code."

Under the military rule of our country result to imagine that it is but a step from military rule applied to Cuba to the territory constituting the present United States of America."

Mr. Gompers protests against militarism and the refusal to extend self-government to the Filipinos. He congratulates workers on the fruits of organization, which alone can free them from the unjust exactions of private employers and corporations.

Declares Unionism Is Growing.

Unionism is growing, he says. The first of the organized railroad employees to be affiliated with the Federation have come in—the Order of Railroad Telegraphers.

As to the right to boycott, Mr. Gompers says: "After all we shall have to contend for the exercise of this right, and out of it will no doubt come the full recognition by all of the inherent natural and lawful right to give that which we have a right to give, to withhold that which we

have a right to withhold." "The treatment by the Federal Government of the Idaho miners, President Gompers says, is so outrageous as to bring a blush of shame to every liberty-loving American. "The killing of innocent men upon the public highway at Lattimer, the shooting down of unarmed men at Buffalo, the incarceration of workmen guilty of no offence in Idaho, and the outlawry of organized labor must be frowned upon," he says.

The Sherman Anti-Trust law, intended to protect the people from unlawful combinations of capital, has simply caused the indictment of union workmen because their action was construed as in restraint of trade, he declares.

Trusts a Menace to Labor.

"Organized labor," he goes on, "is deeply concerned regarding the swift and intense concentration of the industries—the formation of the trusts, and it realizes that unless successfully confronted by an equal or superior power there is economic danger and political subjugation in store for all. The great wrongs attributable to the trusts are their corrupting influence on the politics of the country, but as the State has always been the representative of the wealth possessors we shall be compelled to endure this evil until the toilers are organized and educated to the degree that they shall know that the State is by right theirs and finally and justly come to their own."

The treasurer's report shows the organization is financially stronger than it ever was. The receipts for the year were \$36,757.13, and the expenses \$39,590.22. The cash on hand is \$9,549.33. During the year 2,234 charters were issued to labor unions. The gain in membership was 14,282. The number of strikes won was 425, strikes compromised 39, strikes pending 89, and strikes lost 48.

PLAY'S DIVORCE COURT ATMOSPHERE. "WHEELS WITHIN WHEELS."

ALAN DALE REVIEWS

"WHEELS WITHIN WHEELS."



Principals in the New Comedy, Produced for the First Time Here Last Night.

By Alan Dale.

ALL the characters in R. C. Carton's "new and original" comedy, "Wheels Within Wheels," live in a nasty little feverish world of their own—a world bounded on the north by the scandals of the divorce court—on the south by blackmail—on the east by the illicit rendezvous and the clandestine litchkey—on the west by illuminated non-morality. They are in a word a precious and precocious collection. Lord Eric (these precious people in England are generally lords) thinks the earth "a very overrated little planet." Lady Currys (these feminine precious people in England are generally ladies) opines that marriage is a very "overrated institution." The others—to quote one of Mr. Carton's most golden and applauded epigrams—are "bound together by the irrevocable ties of mutual indelicacy."

The comedy man in the piece—comedy! oh, ye gods and little fishes!—is a blatant brute, with a flannel voice, who keeps up two establishments, and is in a terrible state of mind when he hears that the virtuous heroine has eloped, because he has a "baby grand piano," a brougham and other oddments thrown upon his hands.

They are all awfully tired and bored—these feverish people of the little hot-house world, with its adulterous boundaries. All that they live for is to say "smart things"—to rattle off epigrams that are covered with the dust of false brilliancy. If they utter an honest sentiment they are ashamed of it, and follow it up instantly by apologetic levity. They are keen in the quest of new sensations. The real world that throbs and pulsates elsewhere is shut out from them. It is a sealed book to them. "Bound together by the irrevocable ties of mutual cupidty!" Oh, la-la-la-la!

This is the play which I criticised for you from London as running "The Gay Lord Ques" a close second. But it came just a trifle too late. Before it was produced Carton had a very cunning interview in one of the London papers, in which he hinted at the very scopia hue of the comedy.

As the Bishop of Wakefield had been kind enough to boom "The Gay Lord Ques," Carton seemed to think that he was going to be similarly favored. But such was not the case. "Wheels Within Wheels" made some sort of a success in London, as a diluted second dose of the brilliant Arthur W. Pinero. But the censors were magnanimously silent. And the verdict of the London critics was that it was "not quite nice."

"I thought that such a gorgeous expression that it has remained with me."

"Wheels Within Wheels" is indeed not quite nice—not nearly nice—leagues and leagues away from even the hollow shadow of niceness. If it had dealt with the "middle classes," London critics would have said "What beasts!" But, as it referred to those gilded wrecks who parade through Mayfair drawing-rooms, with all the attributes of Plinaccio and of Piccadilly Circus after dark, they merely remarked "Not quite nice."

Here is the story: Lady Currys has been guilty of the "indiscretion" of falling in love with Egeston Vartrey. Mr. Vartrey is married, but is living apart from his wife. Her Ladyship is also married, but is not living apart from her husband. She has written a "compromising" letter to Vartrey. No "handwriting experts" in a Kinsley and Carvalho, are called in, but the Hon. Mrs. Bulmer, Currys's sister, has heard of the circumstance.

As the play opens, she is seen breaking into Vartrey's "rooms" to "burglar" the letter. Naturally, Vartrey has pigeonholed it, and placed it in a convenient cabinet. They always do that idiotic sort of thing on the stage, and expect us to accept such infamy as the basis of an entire play.

Mrs. Bulmer gets the letter, meets an enterprising prig in Vartrey's rooms, and gets him to burn it for her. He is the priggish soul of honor, but he burns it for her. Mrs. Bulmer is pure but light, and beyond jesting at the memory of a dead husband, and causing the audience to shriek with laughter at her anxiety to hear the denouncement of the blatant Blagden's "blue story," she is estimable.

As the "heroine" she allows Lord Eric to believe that it is she who has been using the illicit litchkey (oh, sweet, ineffable and aromatic self-sacrifice!). And when Lady Currys finally elopes with Vartrey, she "saves" her by sending for her husband, and allowing him to believe that it is she, Mrs. Bulmer, who is the guilty party.

The atmosphere of the piece throughout is near-ashtenic. Most of the characters, with one little step—not le premier pas, by a long sight—would become candidates for the lunatic asylum. But the talk is amusing and clever. It is frivolous, witty and frothy. You feel sorry for these pathological wrecks, but just the same they entertain you. Once upon a time I went to a dance in a madhouse, and after I had been there a little time, and accustomed myself to the surroundings, I enjoyed it immensely, as a sort of curiosity.

"Wheels Within Wheels" is a vast struggle to get even with "The Gay Lord Ques," as you will realize when you see that triumph of audacity. As soon as your nostrils have become hardened to Mr. Carton, however, you see that some of its tinsel is really very true tinsel, and that its taste is really an excellent imitation of the real thing.

The piece was well done. Miss Ailda Spang was a great improvement upon Miss Compton in London. Miss Compton is old, but she is Mr. Carton's wife. In his eyes, therefore, she was not old. Miss Spang is young, pretty, vivacious and charming. Her gentle, high-bred manner made Mrs. Bulmer most acceptable, and in looking at her bright, winsome face you might well have wished that she had adorned something more poetic. John B. Mason as Lord Eric, the prig, played with well-assumed nonchalance, and was really much better than he looked. Mr. Mason's clothes were not precisely of the Mayfair brand. Robert Hillard, who played the part of the methods of Arthur Bouchier, who made a great hit in the piece in London. Mr. Hillard was quite as good as Mr. Bouchier. I thought that they both overdid the role. But it is a great role for the actor, from the actor's point of view.

Grant Stewart was the "deceived" husband in the case, with all his wife's poudre de riz on his hair. Distinguished husbands who are deceived always use poudre de riz on their locks. It gives them a certain tone. Philip Cunningham, as the gay seducer, did not respond to the usual requirements of that part. He is a stodgy person, with stern and unyielding manners. Miss Elliston was the wife in the case (poor, pretty little dear), and Eva Vincent was an old friend with a penchant for photograph albums and ferns—quite irreproachable, and consequently a guy in a piece of this description.

Not quite nice! No, "Wheels Within Wheels" is not quite nice. Compared with "Lord and Lady Algy," it shows Mr. Carton on the degrading side. But if you wait for a little while, Mr. Frohman will criticise the play for you. He will probably say: "The sweetest and most purposeful comedy I have ever produced—Charles Frohman." Before you see that signature, however, I will append my own.

She Had It Once.

"They say Morton's wife has lots of money." "Oh, I guess that's a mistake. They're married for nearly a year now."—Chicago Times Herald.